

# Coagulation Guidelines For Unexplained Bleeding Disorders

Washington State Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council  
Originally published: May, 1999 Reviewed: October 2001/December 2004

## FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

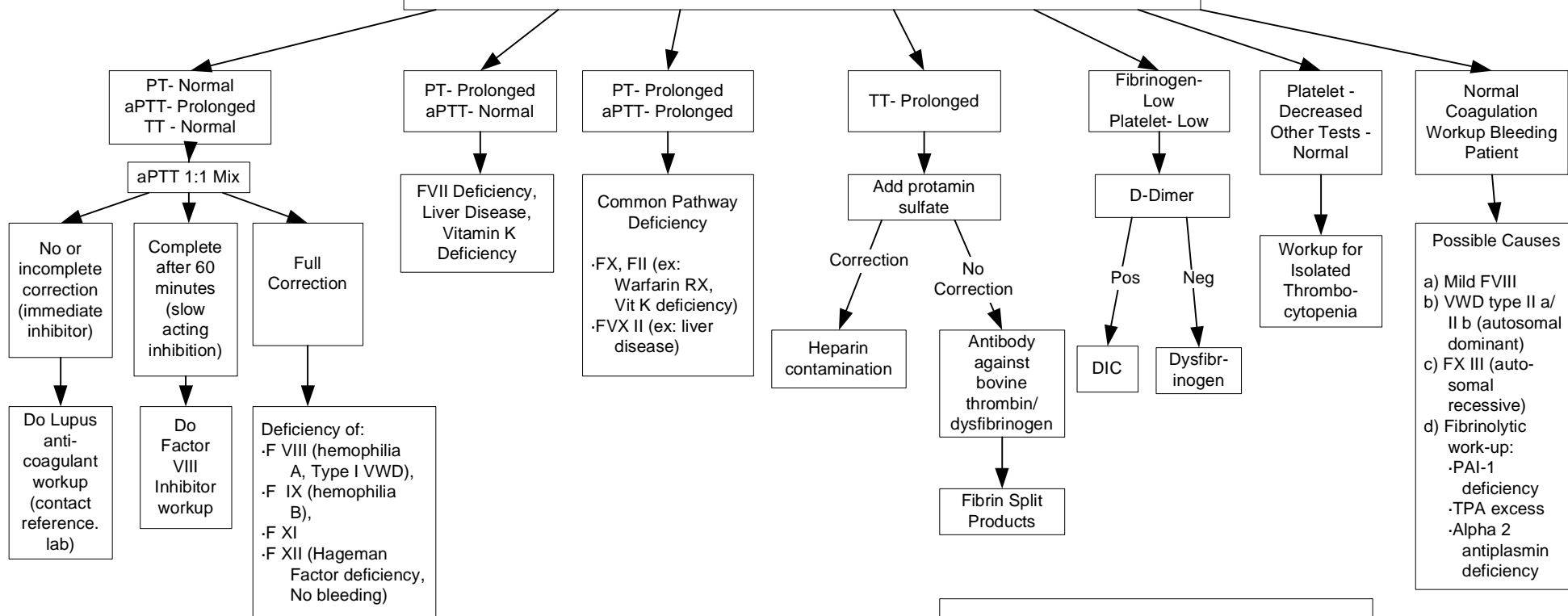
The individual clinician is in the best position to determine which tests are most appropriate for a particular patient.

### Patient History & Physical Exam

Important points to consider in interpreting guidelines:

- 1) Early onset bleeding (platelets) versus late onset (humoral factor deficiency).
- 2) Pregnancy (effects on circulatory levels)
- 3) Hereditary and/or personal history of bleeding disorders- possible (autosomal, recessive, dominant, sex-linked).

### Basic Coagulation Workup (BCW): aPTT, PT, TT, Fibrinogen, Platelet count



**NOTE:** Bleeding time maybe useful as an additional diagnostic tool for familial or acquired platelet disorders such as Von Hildebrand's disease or Ticlipod medication. In general, it is not a predictor of bleeding for surgical procedures.

**REFERENCES:** Work up extracted from literature and modified by University of Washington Department of Laboratory Medicine.

### Abbreviations:

aPTT: Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time  
DIC: Dessiminated Intravascular Coagulation  
F: Factor  
PAI: Plasminogen Activator Inhibitor  
PT: Prothrombin Time  
TPA: Tissue Plasminogen Activator  
VWD: Von Willebrand's Disease

# Hypercoagulable State Practice Guidelines

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The individual clinician is in the best position to determine which tests are most appropriate for a particular patient

**Definition:** Hypercoagulable state: balance of the coagulation system is tipped toward thrombosis, due to either acquired or inherited increase in pro-coagulant elements (e.g. cancer pro coagulant) or decrease in anti-coagulant elements (e.g. Protein C deficiency).

### Hypercoaguable states are suspected in patients who have:

- 1) "Spontaneous" thrombosis without obvious associated
- 2) Thrombosis. Even with a concomitant risk factor, at an early age (e.g. less than 40)
- 3) Recurrent thrombosis, especially in different sites
- 4) Strong family history of thrombosis, MI or stroke in young relatives
- 5) Thrombosis in unusual locations (visceral thrombosis, arterial thrombosis in young person)

### Acquired Disorders and applicable laboratory test

Initial testing for all patients: PT, PTT, TT, Platelet, Fibrinogen  
(Refer to Coagulation Guideline for Unexplained Bleeding Disorders on the reverse side)

- 1) Antiphospholipid antibody (aPL) Syndrome (Lupus anticoagulant)  
Test: Anticardiolipin antibodies (ACA titers)  
Russell venom time (dRVVT) or platelet neutralization
- 2) Hyperhomocysteinemia (vitamin deficiency)  
Test: Serum Homocysteine
- 3) Dysfibrinogenemia (liver disease)  
Test: Fibrinogen, Thrombin Time, Reptilase Clotting Time
- 4) Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia  
Test: Heparin Antibody
- 5) Cancer  
Test: Use what is general practice for CA diagnosis

### Inherited Disorders and applicable laboratory test

Initial testing for all patients: PT, PTT, TT, Platelet, Fibrinogen  
(Refer to Coagulation Guideline for Unexplained Bleeding Disorders on the reverse side)

- 1) Factor V Leiden/aPC resistance (most common)  
Test: aPC (activated Protein C) resistance assay - general screen; most common reason for resistance (95%) is factor V Leiden (genetic defect in factor V) **OR** DNA analysis for factor V Leiden - determines if patient is heterozygote or homozygote
- 2) Factor II (Prothrombin G20210) A Deficiency  
Test: Factor II DNA Analysis
- 3) Protein C Deficiency, Protein S Deficiency, Antithrombin III Deficiency  
Test together with: Protein C activity, Protein S total and free antigen assays, Antithrombin activity assay
- 4) Hyperhomocysteinemia (metabolic defect)  
Test: Homocysteine
- 5) Dysfibrinogenemia/Fibrinolytic defects  
Test: Fibrinogen, Thrombin, Reptilase Clotting Time

### Notes:

#### At time of acute thrombosis:

- 1) Protein C, Protein S, antithrombin may be falsely low due to consumption in clotting process
- 2) May get reactive (not causative) antiphospholipid antibodies
- 3) Some believe homocysteine is a acute-phase reactant

#### When on heparin/ coumadin:

- 1) Antithrombin is decreased to 40-60% (hep) (used as cofactor for heparin) and 10-20% (Coumadin)
- 2) Protein C and S may be falsely elevated by 10-20%(hep); 10-20% decreased (Coumadin)
- 3) Functional tests for antiphospholipid antibody may be affected by either.

### References:

1. Thrombosis with a Possible Hypercoagulable State, K.Hassell MD UCHSC, Denver Co. 2001
2. Algorithm for Laboratory Investigation of Hypercoagulable State , RLA Overland Park, KS
3. CAP Consensus Conference XXXVI, Diagnosis Issues in Thrombophilia, Nov. 2001

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